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TO: Department of State

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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
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FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

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POLITICAL

1. Najran Bombings Continue. In first air raid in over month, Najran, near Yemen border, attacked twice on February 13 by planes which though they appeared from direction of Yemen almost certainly were operating out of UAR. Crown Prince FAYSAL informed Policy Planning Council member William R. Polk in Riyadh on latter's return short visit Najran with Ambassador Hart that two persons were killed and two wounded during the attacks. Casualties and property damage were also reported

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by Saudi radio and press. Ambassador Hart and Mr. Pollé who witnessed air strikes, refute Cairo-San'a radio claims that planes were pursuing "fleeing royalist invaders." Witnesses observed no royalist fighting elements in Najran area. Further attack occurred Najran February 17. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: UAE motives for attacks may be (1) feint covering UAE-YAR campaign in Jand area (which now reported by reliable Saudi sources to have severed royalist supply line from Najran south), or (2) effort to embarrass Crown Prince Faysal by revealing Saudi vulnerability to air attacks, or (3) measure to point up ineffectiveness U.S. support for Faysal's regime. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Ship Visits. Consulate General Dhahran reported successful visit USS BERRY to Eastern Province ended February 12. Program of visit included cruise in Persian Gulf north/Eas Tanura with 40 Royal Saudi Navy officers and men among guests. Meanwhile Embassy preparing for visit USS LLOYD THOMAS to Jidda February 20-23. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Continuation of series of ship visits welcomed by SAG as demonstration continued U.S. support for SAG. (CONFIDENTIAL)

MILITARY

1. Arms Dropped Near Saudi Coast. February 16 U.S. and Saudi Air Force personnel sighted three parachute drop areas near Saudi Red Sea coast roughly midway between Jidda and Yanbu. Over 80 crates and bundles thus far recovered by Saudi military and civil authorities. Bundles included mortars of French manufacture, Belgian automatic rifles and English grenades, ammunition, and US ammunition. Bedouins near scene of drops stated planes passed over area early morning February 16 during two-hour period. Truck and auto sighted near one drop area where bundles were being recovered. Originators of operation unknown.

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but some evidence on hand indicates this was DAF operation. Vigorous search effort and investigation underway. USMFM experts are aiding Saudis at request Minister of Defence Prince SULTAN bin 'Abd al-'Aziz. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Operation appears to have been unsuccessful. Large number bundles recovered by Saudis may mean few recovered by addressees, however area is not well patrolled. Full extent clandestine activity unknown.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Other News. Al-Nadwah banner-headlined "China Explodes its First Atomic Bomb" and running comment on SAG-Arance negotiations. Stationing of three American submarines in Mediterranean Sea given brief, factual front-page mention. Johnson's resignation from UN Palestine Committee was excuse for journalistic abuse at hands of Salim Gadi. Al-Nadwah, February 16. Johnson described as father of a most dangerous project for supplying Israel with water and settling Arab refugees outside their country. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Obviously Mr. Gadi has his Johnsons and Johnstons mixed up. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador

Nicholas G. Thacher
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